

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A collapsible expandable air filter assembly includes an expandable pleated filter media, a filter frame made from a cardboard blank that is pre-scored, slit, creased and die cut to define a central area enabling air passage therethrough, and side and end panels foldable to positions generally normal to the central area to form a perimeter wall about the central area to receive and support the expanded air filter media. A filter grill is formed from a cardboard blank and has an open central area and laterally opposite marginal side and end walls foldable to enable mounting on the filter frame to assist in retaining the filter media within the filter frame. Separating fingers are formed integral with or separate from but connectable to the filter grill and are adopted to be positioned between adjacent expandable pleats to evenly position and secure the filter pleats. The filter frame and filter grill are foldable into compact folded positions of substantially similar size to the collapsed pleated air filter media to enable compact stacking and insertion into a carton for shipping and storage as a kit before assembly. Alternative collapsible disposable air filter embodiments utilize similar expandable pleated filter media but employ filter frames formed from pairs of panel frame members adapted to have their free ends interconnected to form a rectangular frame that receives the expanded filter media, but can be collapsed for stacking with the collapsed pleated filter media and inserted into a carton for shipping and storage as a kit prior to assembly.